



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Seizes 356 Pounds of Cocaine in the Month of January

Two separate traffic stops in Northern Arizona made by Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers last month resulted in the seizure of 356 pounds of Cocaine worth \$2.6 million.

One traffic stop was made on Interstate 17 near Camp Verde. The second traffic stop, resulting in the largest haul of Cocaine, came on January 26th when a DPS Officer stopped a commercial tractor-trailer for equipment violations on I-17 northbound. An inspection of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of 344 pounds of Cocaine inside plastic wrapped cardboard boxes located on the floor of the palletized load.

On January 8th 12 pounds of Cocaine was seized following a traffic stop on I-40 near Flagstaff.

“This is quite a large amount of Cocaine. It is a snapshot of the drug traffic passing through Arizona on a daily basis. As a result of the excellent training our Officers receive and their vigilance while on duty, our agency is able to take these narcotics off the streets,” said Roger Vanderpool, Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

In both cases, the drug seizures came with the help of DPS canines. The drugs were found hidden and creatively concealed deep inside the searched vehicles.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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